



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

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DPS seizes \$2.5 million worth of marijuana during the month of September

Agency also seizes substantial amounts of methamphetamine and cocaine

Several traffic stops by Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Officers along with the efforts of DPS criminal investigators resulted in the seizure of 4,494 pounds of marijuana during the month of September. With a pound of marijuana currently selling for up to \$550 on the street, the total value of the marijuana seized by DPS during September is estimated at about \$2.5 million.

DPS also seized 20 pounds (9.09 kilos) of cocaine in September, worth an estimated \$164,000 (\$18,000 per kilogram), along with 20 pounds of methamphetamine worth an estimated \$420,000 (\$21,000 per pound). DPS also seized 189 tablets of ecstasy during September. As part of the seizures, 24 vehicles were also seized.

The largest marijuana seizure made by DPS following a single traffic stop during this period occurred on September 13 when a DPS officer stopped a commercial vehicle (a 2002 Freightliner) on I-10 near Benson. DPS Canine "Mac" alerted to the vehicle. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed 1,500 pounds of marijuana co-mingled with legal freight. The marijuana, the vehicle, and one 1991 utility trailer were seized along with a .45 caliber pistol.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agency in United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix with offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.

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